

Zero Beat

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

September Meeting

We devoted a good part of our summer issue of Zero Beat to the June 1987 Field Day activity. The kickoff meeting for this September will be a review of what occurred at Field Day, including photos and video tape. So for those of you who were not there, come by and see what you missed. And for those of you who were there, come by and see what it was really like in action!

Please remember that our September meeting will be held on September 11, 1987, at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Doors open at 7:30 PM, and the meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM.

Silent Key

It is with great regret that we report the passing of Nelson "Bob" Julian, W1DVW, from Amherst. Bob, 73, was a long time HCRA club member. Many of you will remember him as being very active in Western Mass Traffic Nets. He also held numerous positions in the ARRL Field Organization. As a fellow ham and a friend he will be missed.



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HF Adventures

I discovered something this past week which I'd like to share with you. This is aimed mostly at DXer's, in themselves a rare breed. But there is an ever stranger type of DX'er: CW is music to their ears. So if you're like me and are a CW freak, you can have some fun late nites. I was tuning through the 40 meter CW band at 0430Z when to my surprise I found a YN3EO calling CQ DX on SSB on 7.060 MHz! There was not a sole on the band. For those non-DX'ers YN is Nicaragua, and considering the troubles that country is having, it is a semi-rare catch. I gave him a quick burst of my call on CW. To my delight he said "that Charlie Whiskey station again." Thus had begun a 35 minute cross-mode QSO.

It turned out he was working in the East German embassy in Managua. Well that was great! Were cross-mode QSO's just a fluke or would it work again? My answer was soon in coming. About 10 kHz down the band, on SSB, there were three stations: a ZL4, G0, and GM4. Of course, these are New Zealand, England, and Scotland respectively. I waited for a break in their QSO, and called the ZL4 station. He came right back to me, answering in standard CW QSO form. I got a 589 out of him. I also worked the Scotland station, but the G0 would not work cross-mode. Boy, did they give him a hard time about not knowing CW!

Please do not overlook regular CW on 40 meters. I worked 15 different European stations including SP (Poland) and SM (Sweden). 40 meters after midnight is great!

The next night on 20 meters around 0500Z (I am a glutton for punishment; I have to be at work for 6AM) I found Jim Smith. He has an SSB DX net on 14.220 MHz. Jim, VK9NS, is a famous DX'er. Once again I waited for checkins. VK9NS asked if he could help me. I told him that I would like to work him on CW. He came on CW and gave me a 579. What a thrill to work Norfolk Island with 200 watts! So try CW, even cross-mode. I have found it to be a new way to QSO.

There is also another new way to communicate. Ever since Novice enhancement there has been increased activity on 10 meters. So I converted an old 11 meter SSB rig to 10 meters. Then came the job of converting a fiberglass heliwound antenna to 10 meters. First I tried to scrape off some of the fiberglass at the top of the antenna, to see if I could find the wire. I found the wire was firmly implanted in the fiberglass. So I took my trusty "hack" saw and cut off about one half inch of the antenna.

The VSWR went down to 1.2:1. My first contact mobile was VE2 land. He was running a net on 28.305 USB. So I worked about six states from my driveway. I have worked 15 states and 10 countries mobile with this rig. Lately I have been doing more 10 meters in the car than 2 meters!

See you on the bands! 73 de Rusty Hack KB1XD

Rusty recently upgrade to Amateur Extra and received the call NM1K. He is active on 2m, 220 mhz, and 70cm, as well as both SSB and CW on the HF bands. Rusty is also net control of the 10m net Sunday evenings at 7PM local on 28.400

Thanks

ZERO BEAT is the newsletter of the Hampden County Radio Association, Inc., and is published monthly from September thru June. Contents of **ZERO BEAT** may be reprinted provided **ZERO BEAT** and the author are duly credited. Please note that some articles appearing in **ZERO BEAT** may be copyrighted; consult the author for reprint permission. Your **ZERO BEAT** editor is Bob McCormick, KA1KPH. All members are welcome to place free Wanted or For Sale adds in **ZERO BEAT**. Send your copy to the club address.

The HCRA would like to thank the following contributing editors and sources, who have brought you this month's issue: The *ARRL Letter*, KA1KPH, *The DX Bulletin*, NM1K ex KB1XD, WA1EYF

New World

Get your home satellite receiver and VCR ready for the world premiere of a new video tape, The New World of Amateur Radio. The one-hour program will be uplinked at 6:00 PM EDT September 20 on GTE Spacenet 1, Transponder 12H. On most home satellite receivers the show will be on Channel 23. Audio will be stereo/Compatible monaural with subcarriers listed on-screen just prior to the start of the show, so tune in early.

The complete program includes a 10-minute introduction, the 28.5 minute main presentation entitled The New World of Amateur Radio, followed by some special related material.

Presented in a fast-paced TV magazine format, the show portrays the excitement and person-to-person contact that only ham radio can provide. The ARRL, which helped produce the show, expects it to be an outstanding recruitment tool.

The League produced the videotape in cooperation with Kenwood, ICOM, and Yaesu. It was put together under the guiding hand of Roy Neal, K6DUE, the former NBC News Science Editor who is best known for his coverage of the manned space program. The ARRL is encouraging extensive use of the video to introduce ham radio to groups of all ages and backgrounds.

Any club member who has a chance to view and possibly tape this should write to the club or contact any board member, as we would like to use this possibly at a future club meeting and class session.

tnx ARRL

QSL Bureau

A number of you have recently upgraded and elected to choose a new call. Many of you may be (or know) new Novices. Please don't forget the ARRL QSL bureau system!

It is very important that whenever you change your call or address that you let the bureau know. Most of the time the volunteer sorters spend is not sorting cards, but tracking down hams who are not current with the bureau.

Write the bureau at P. O. Box 216, Springfield, MA 01108 for more information!

September 1987

10m News

Please check into the Ten Meter Rag Chew Net which is held Sunday nights at 7:00 PM local time on 28.400 MHz. This frequency is in the new 10m Novice phone segment. Net manager Rusty NM1K reports that they have had 49 checkins and 30 states in one evening. The only states that have not been on the net are Alaska, California, Washington, and Hawaii. So if the band conditions are open, its great to work new states. If the conditions are not good its still fun to have a local Rag Chew.

In the month of June there were 125 checkins, versus only three or four when the net first started. Who will be the first HCRA station to get WAS on 10m phone through this (and other) nets? Let's here from you!

There is also a 10m Rag Chew CW net on Wednesday nights at 8:00 PM on 28.175 MHz. Try your hand (no pun) at CW!

tnx NM1K

License Figures

The May FCC licensing figures contain some good news for amateurs who have been concerned about the Gettysburg backlog and about amateur growth. For awhile this spring, some applicants for new licenses were waiting as much as 12 weeks for their licenses. The ARRL raised this issue with the FCC, and we were promised that some additional personnel would be assigned to process amateur applications.

The May FCC statistics are now in, and they show that the FCC processed 18,889 applications, which includes 6,797 new amateurs. This brings the five-month total for 1987 to 14,679 new amateurs. The comparable figure for the same five months last year was 8,613, so new amateur licensing so far this year is running 70% ahead of 1986.

ARRL HQ has also heard from several Novice instructors, who tell us that their students are now receiving their licenses in as little as four weeks.

Here are the license totals as of the end of May:

Novice	86,175
Technician	87,631
General	115,045
Advanced	97,880
Extra	42,136
Total	428,867

Directors

During the HCRA Annual Meeting held on Friday June 5, 1987, the following members were elected as officers for the 1987-1988 year:

President	Steve Nelson WA1EYF
Vice Pres	Yorke Phillips K1BXE
Treasurer	Greg Stoddard N1AEH
Clerk	Jeanette Platanitis KA1MEW

The following members were elected as directors for two years, serving from 1987 through 1989:

Director	Jim Sebolt N1DUY
Director	Phil Smith KA1MP
Director	Ken Nickolls WB1BZH
Director	Cliff Junkins W1UWX

The following members will continue to serve as directors in their second year of a two year term:

Director	Ned Carpenter NB1R
Director	Ron Beauchemin WB1ETS
Director	Ken Grady ND1P
Director	Dave Bertagnoli N1EUZ

Due to time constraints, John Fleckenstein, KD9MU, will be unable to serve in the second year of his two year director's term. He will be replaced by Dave Bertagnoli N1EUZ.

The above elected officers and directors were proposed and nominations from the floor were solicited. No nominations were put forward, and nominations were closed. The president KA1KPH directed the clerk to cast one vote for the slate as proposed. KA1KPH then turned the gavel over to WA1EYF.

Canada on 17 & 12m

Canada's Department of Communications (DOC) has announced that effective July 29, 1987 Canadian amateurs are allowed to operate on the 18.068 to 18.168 and 24.890 to 24.990 MHz bands.

Holders of Canadian Advanced Amateur Radio Operators Certificates may use the following modes (old designations): A1, F1, A3, F3, A4, F4, A5 and F5. All emissions must have a maximum bandwidth of 6 kHz.

The holders of Amateur Radio Operators Certificates may use F1 or A1 emissions only on these new bands.

New ARRL Books For Sale!

The HCRA will have a number of *new* ARRL books available at the club meeting on September 11th. The fine quality and the special price offered by the HCRA is reason enough to stop by the meeting!

As we go to press the books below have just been received, hot off the press. The list of what will be available follows. In addition to the books you've most likely seen, or even own, there are a few new ones you may be interested in.

The *new* ARRL Operating Manual is one of your Editor's favorite. It includes chapters on Basic Operating, Antennas, DXing, DXpeditions, Contests, Operating Awards, RTTY & Packet Radio, and much more. The awards section contains almost 60 pages printed in color! At almost 700 pages, this should be one of the League books in your shack. Check one out at the next club meeting.

The ARRL has also published John Devoldere ON4UN's book on Low-Band DXing. Now that the fall season is upon us, and the static on 160, 80 & 40 starts to diminish, its time to grab a copy of this book and get working on a project for the winter months. It includes a discussion on low-band propagation, antennas, rigs, low-band DX operating, and computer programs. A complete list of over 500 reference works will provide you with *everything* you would ever need to know about the low bands!

Finally, now that sun spots are on the rise, and band conditions are getting better by the week, you may be interested in a copy of The Complete DX'er, by Bob Locher W9KNI. Although published by Idiom Press, this fine book is available through the ARRL and now the HCRA. This book is for anyone who's interested in working DX. Every aspect of working DX is covered, from learning how to really listen and securing that elusive QSL, to setting-up and operating your station. Its great reading and a good learning experience, all in one package.

The Tune in the World is the brand new version, with the two 90 minute tapes field tested by the HCRA! The License manuals are new, and good through at least January 1988. The FCC Rule Book is the most recent printing covering all changes from the Novice Enhancement.

ARRL Books Available:
Tune in the World
Tech/General License Manual
Advanced License Manual
Extra Class License Manual
FCC Rule Book
Operating Manual
The Complete DX'er
Low-Band DXing

Repeaters

For the last two and one-half years the HCRA has had lease agreements with the owners of four repeaters for use of the machines by HCRA members. These were FM repeaters on 2m and 70cm, plus ATV and packet radio.

As part of this arrangement, members were asked to join the repeater subgroup for an additional dues assessment of \$10. This additional assessment was for building up a fund to maintain and improve the four repeaters. To date, only two of the four repeaters have used these funds. The HCRA has funded a new antenna and on-going telephone costs for the 2m machine, and purchased an amplifier for the digipeater.

The trustees of the ATV and 70cm FM repeaters indicated that they were not interested in funds made available to them from the repeater subgroup. A year ago the digipeater was donated to the club and now is operating using the W1NY club call. A survey of the users of the 2m machine indicated that only a small number of HCRA members actually use the repeater, and almost no one uses the autopatch facility. Based on this information, your Board of Directors has voted to dissolve the repeater subgroup and not renew the current lease agreements.

The HCRA owns and operates one repeater at present: the W1NY-1 packet radio digipeater. Conversations with the trustees of the three formally affiliated repeaters have indicated that they will continue to operate an open repeater and encourage HCRA members to use them.

The remaining funds collected as dues from the previous two years have been moved into the general fund, and will be used to continue to support and maintain the digipeater.

A proposal brought before the board earlier this year would establish an HCRA 220 MHz repeater, available to Novices under the recent Novice enhancements. Owned and operated by the HCRA, this machine would be open to all hams, and be a good use of the repeater subgroup funds. At this point the repeater is still in the preliminary planning stages. A site must be found, a trustee must be appointed, and most important, additional funds must be raised. This is where you, the HCRA membership, can help.

The new membership application and renewal form now contains a line for donations to the HCRA repeater fund. Monies contributed in this manner will be added to the repeater subgroup funds previously collected. When enough funds have been collected, a 220 MHz repeater will be purchased and placed into operation.

You can indicate your support by continuing your old repeater subgroup dues as a \$10 donation to our repeater fund (feel free to give more!!) and encourage others to do the same. Since this is a club project with club monies I welcome your comments, both positive and negative.

Steve Nelson, WA1EYF
HCRA Club President

Dues & Callbooks

The HCRA dues year is from September through June, and your dues are payable by November. In next months *Zero Beat* we will have a membership application form for both new members and renewals.

As we did last year, if you desire to obtain either the North American or DX Callbooks (or both!), you will receive an even greater discount if you order them with your application/renewal. The HCRA guarantees that its members will receive the *lowest* prices on Callbooks!

So look for the application form in next months *Zero Beat*, and bring it to the October meeting with your payment, or mail your dues to the club address.

*Thank You
for your
Support!*

1987			Dec	1-2	Yankee Vernon test
Aug	30	NoBARC fleamarket		4	HCRA meeting
Sep	11	HCRA meeting		4-6	160m contest
	12	VE exam Wilbraham		6	YCCC meeting
	12-14	VHF contest		12	VE exam Wilbraham
	26-27	CQ WW DX RTTY		12-13	10m contest
	27	NoBARC meeting			
Oct	2	HCRA meeting		Jan	HCRA meeting
	4	YCCC meeting		Feb	HCRA meeting
	17-18	Boy Scout Jamboree		Mar	YCCC meeting
	24-25	CQ WW DX Phone		Apr	HCRA meeting
Nov	25	NoBARC auction		May	YCCC meeting
	6	HCRA meeting		Jun	HCRA meeting
	7-9	Sweeps CW			YCCC meeting
	21-23	Sweeps SSB			
	28-29	CQ WW DX CW			
	29	NoBARC meeting			

1988				8	HCRA meeting
				5	HCRA meeting
				6	YCCC meeting
				4	HCRA meeting
				1	HCRA meeting
				9	YCCC meeting
				6	HCRA meeting
				3	HCRA meeting
				5	YCCC meeting

HCRA Meetings

First Friday of each month at
Feeding Hills Congregational Church
Center of Feeding Hills
Intersection of routes 57 & 187
Doors open at 7:30 PM
Meeting starts promptly at 8:00 PM

ARRL Books
Available at the
September Meeting!

Future Club Meeting Dates

Club Meeting	Topic	Board Meeting	Host
11-Sep-87	Field Day Review	15-Sep-87	NB1R
2-Oct-87		6-Oct-87	KA1MEW
6-Nov-87	Annual Auction	10-Nov-87	WB1ETS
4-Dec-87	2nd Annual Finger Fest	<i>none</i>	
8-Jan-88	VHF contest	12-Jan-88	WB1BZH
5-Feb-88		9-Fcb-88	
4-Mar-88		8-Mar-88	
1-Apr-88		5-Apr-88	
6-May-88		10-May-88	
3-Jun-88	Annual Banquet	<i>none</i>	

Western Mass Slow Speed (traffic) net
meets Monday thru Friday at 7:30 PM on
3.562 MHz

Many ARES nets meet on Sunday
morning. Some are: On 3.937 MHz at 8:30
AM, on K1FFK/R 146.91 MHz and
KA1KPH/R 449.175 MHz at 9:00 AM, on
K1FFK/R 53.23 MHz at 9:15 AM. Please
check in!

Western Mass Traffic Net (cycle 2) meets
at 1:00 PM Monday thru Friday on K1FFK/
R 146.91 MHz

Western Mass Phone Net (SSB) meets
Monday thru Saturday at 6:00 PM on 3.937

Western Mass (CW) net meets evenings at
7:00 PM on 3.562 MHz

Ten Meter Rag Chew Net (SSB) meets
Sunday at 7:00 PM local on 28.400 MHz

Hampden County Radio Association, Inc.

P O Box 482

West Springfield MA 01090-0482

Forwarding & Address
Correction Requested

September 1987

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